

George McDonald Barn

This barn is located in Riverdale, about 2 miles north of Heber City limits. The address is estimated to be 1726 North Highway 40. So little is known about the builder and ownership of the property in the early days, but later owners feel that the original owner of the barn and the builder was likely George McDonald, who was neighbor of William McDonald, to the south.

The vintage of the barn; because of the log structure, with notched corners and because the south portion is adz-hewn, squared logs with double dove-tailed corners; makes one think of mid to the late 1880s as the time of construction.

The succession of ownership followed in this approximate order: George and Sarah McDonald, then Miles and Tillie Allison Clyde, then Fredrick McBride and his wife was the dau of Leland A Wootton, then Lester and LaVon Jones, then Ray Hutchinson Family, then Allen Probst and then the present owner is Glen Hafen.





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This barn with the old brick home and tall, stately pine trees have stood on this 1/4 block for many years. Henry Aird built the home, and it is not clear if he started the barn or was it originally built by the next owner of the property....James Stacy Murdock, son of Joseph Stacy Murdock and Elizabeth Hunter? This property, at 517 E 100 N in Heber, then passed from James Stacy to his daughter, Beth Murdock, who married Eldon Ritchie. After Beth died, it is now owned by Eldon and Beth's son, Brent M Ritchie.

Indubitably, this barn had many uses: for hay storage, animal comforts, and weather protection of different machines and stood incompletely used for many years. It did have one special use: Beth took me out to the lean-to one day, to show me the only one of the Heber Tannery vats existing at the time; used to soak the pelts in semi-caustic mixtures during the tanning process. There were six of them, originally, but that was the only one I have ever discovered. The vats were made of lead amalgum. This only tannery which Heber ever had, was located opposite Jack Lewis's new home, and at 565 E 200 N in Heber. Jack was able to tell me much about this old tannery.

Now, that it has been necessary to tear down the barn, it is no longer the icon it once was....a vigilant monarch in *The Mountain Valley*. We all lament the loss of such icons of past history.

1-31-98 rrg *